

reconcile the above-noted, apparent distinction found in the teachings of Osaki. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 24 is in condition for allowance.

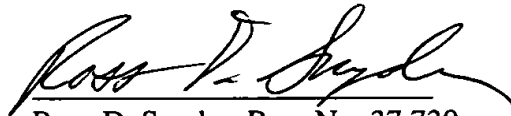
The Examiner has allowed claims 1-23. The Examiner has objected to claims 25-31, but states that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of Applicant's argument for the allowability of claim 24, from which claims 25-31 depend, Applicant further submits that claims 25-31 are also in condition for allowance.

In conclusion, Applicant has overcome all of the Office's rejections, and early notice of allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited. If, for any reason, the Office is unable to allow the Application on the next Office Action, and believes a telephone interview would be helpful, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

09/07/04

Date



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